

UN Signs Landmark Treaty

The theme for the 2007 International Day of Families is "Families and Persons with Disabilities".

A record number of United Nations member states signed a landmark treaty that aims to improve the lives of people with disabilities around the world. The theme coincides with the recent adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in December 2006 and the opening for signature of the Convention, which began March 30 2007.

The purpose of the theme is to emphasize the rights of persons with disabilities, the role of family in the empowerment of persons with disabilities, and the need for support to families with family members with disabilities. Many of the issues regarding family and persons with disability may be quite sensitive, as unfortunately some families have also put severe constraints to independence on, or have even been a source of domestic violence and abuse to, family members with disabilities.

The United Nations General Assembly has intended that observances of the International Day of Families be decentralized to the national and local levels. For the full press release, go to:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=22085&Cr=disab&Cr1=>